

Connections

September 2009

Hot Off the Press!

2010-2012 Missouri State Map Available

by Sue Cox

You're driving to an important out-of-town meeting and miss your exit. What should you do?

- A. Stop and get coffee.
- B. Pull out your cell phone and text your co-worker for directions.
- C. Pull over safely out of traffic and consult your new 2010-2012 Missouri state highway map.

If you picked C, you're right on target!

The 2010-2012 map is now available. Long claimed to be MoDOT's most popular piece of information, the map showcases Missouri's 33,700-mile highway system, along with important landmarks and historical sites. During the next three years, MoDOT will mail about 1.7 million maps.

A new feature added to this edition is the Avenue of the Saints corridor, a 550-mile four-lane highway connecting St. Paul, Minn. and St. Louis, Mo. Other popular features include easy-to-locate emergency telephone numbers and contact informa-

tion for state travel resources. There are also general details about tools to help travelers go quickly yet safely and about some of Missouri's traffic laws.

Thanks to the teamwork at MoDOT, a new map makes its debut on a two- to three-year cycle. The geographic information staff in the Central Office Transportation Planning Division has the primary responsibility of updating and developing the state map. Community Relations staff helps with photographs and panel designs. The General Services Division assists with securing a printer and with distribution.

"We know the map is very important to our customers," said GIS Manager Arnold Williams. "We work hard to make a nice impression for the department and for our state."



Maps are available at MoDOT offices, highway rest areas, visitor centers, the Missouri Division of Tourism and many other state offices. Copies can be requested by visiting MoDOT's Web site, www.modot.org, or by calling toll-free 1-888-ASK-MODOT (888-6636).



Shaun Schmitz

District 2 employees Jacob Shoush, Kerry Harvey and Warren Ratliff hand out new state maps at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia.

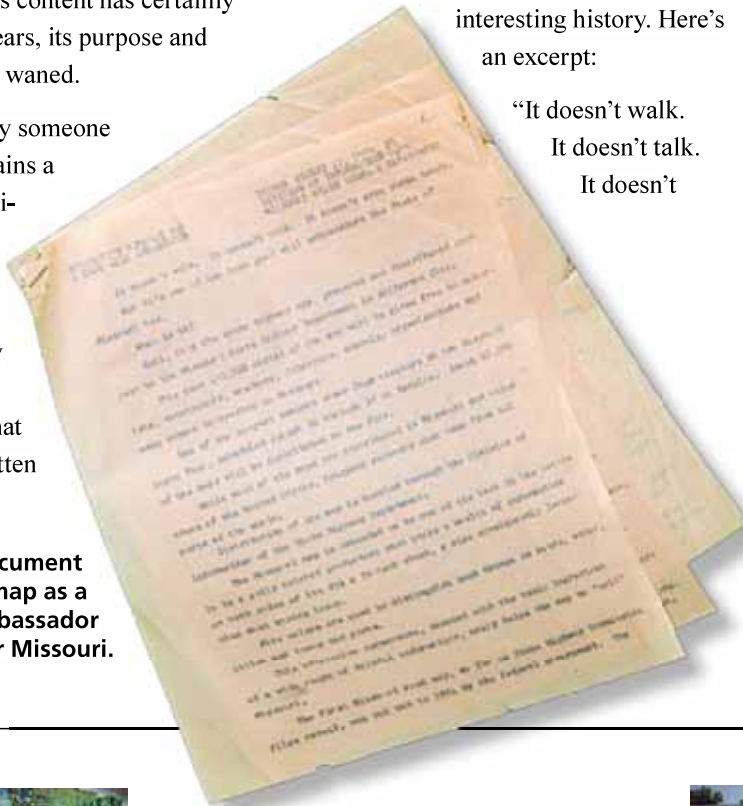
State Highway Map: Missouri's Good Will Ambassador

by Sally Oxenhandler

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Take the Missouri highway map for example. While the map's content has certainly changed over the years, its purpose and popularity have not waned.

An article written by someone (though whom remains a mystery) in the Division of Information dated Aug. 17, 1960 and recently unearthed by Community Relations staff proves that to be true. Typewritten



The 1960 document deems the map as a good will ambassador for Missouri.

on brown onionskin paper, the story bears the headline, "Missouri's Highway Map – A Good Will Ambassador." It talks about the map's benefits and provides some interesting history. Here's an excerpt:

"It doesn't walk.
It doesn't talk.
It doesn't

even shake hands. But it's one of the best good will ambassadors the State of Missouri has. What is it? Well, it's the state highway map, prepared and distributed each year by the Missouri State Highway Department in Jefferson City. This year, 450,000 copies of the map will be given free to motorists, vacationers, students, libraries, schools, organizations and many others interested in Missouri." The cost was \$24,259.

The article also discloses some interesting history:

- The first Missouri road map, so far as the State Highway Commission files reveal, was issued in 1851 by the federal government. Primary consideration was given to steamboat travel.
- The first road map published by the State of Missouri was in 1918.
- No map was published in 1943 due to World War II.

The writer was even brave enough to reveal mistakes made: "A few years ago the name of Howard County was left off the map. Howard Countians let the Highway Department know about that. The name had been blotted out accidentally during work on a color negative."

The article takes advantage of bragging rights, too: "The Missouri map is conceded to be one of the best in the nation. It is a gaily colored production that packs a wealth of information on both sides of its 25 ½ by 35-inch sheet, a size considerably larger than most states issue . . . This attractive appearance, coupled with the basic ingredient of a wide range of helpful information, truly helps the map to 'sell' Missouri."

See, some things never change.

Inside

6



One of a Kind
Artists put finishing touches on Welcome Center mural in D1

8



Two for One
Dual-lane chip spreader gets thumbs up in D3

9



Ahead of Schedule
klCON celebrates first interchange ramp opening in D4

11



Saving a Life
D6 honored with Red Cross Lifesaver Award

13

Continued Growth
Route 65 growing to six lanes in D8

People Helping People – A Missouri Tradition

Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign Runs Sept. 14-25

MoDOT employees have a strong tradition of helping others, and the 2010 Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign is just one more opportunity to show that.

This year, MoDOT employees have some bragging rights – for the last two years, employees have donated more than any other state agency. In 2009, 2,066 employees participated, representing more than 33 percent of employees. In addition, this year’s campaign artwork can be attributed to LeAnn Hagee, senior traffic technician in District 7.

“We have alot of good people at MoDOT with big hearts, and this design seemed to fit well with that,” said Hagee. “The people at MoDOT inspire me daily, not just in my district but statewide.”

Last year, all state employees were invited to send in a design for a new charitable campaign logo. Thirteen designs were chosen from more than 275 submissions. These were then

narrowed down to two designs placed on the campaign Web site, and state employees voted. The winning design was derived from Hagee’s artwork, with more than 5,500 votes cast. The artwork will be featured on the front and back cover of the brochure this year and next.

MoDOT’s official campaign will run Sept. 14-25, with the chance to make individual pledges through an easy



payroll deduction or to take part in upcoming district and division fund-raising events.

For more information, including a list of charitable organizations and an application form, go to www.msecc.mo.gov, or contact MoDOT’s MSECC coordinators Jackie Biele at 573-751-3720 or Dawn Haslag at 573-751-5678.

“We have alot of good people at MoDOT with big hearts, and this design seemed to fit well with that,”
LeAnn Hagee, Senior Traffic Technician, District 7

Rahn Marks Five Years with MoDOT

When Pete Rahn took over as director in September 2004, customer satisfaction with MoDOT hovered at just 68 percent. Today, 85 percent of Missourians say they are satisfied with the job MoDOT is doing, a testament to Rahn’s leadership over the past five years.

He is quick to credit his employees, whom he refers to as “Team MoDOT,” for the success the agency has achieved. “I couldn’t ask for more motivated and dedicated team members,” Rahn said. “They work hard to provide the best value for Missouri taxpayers, and it shows.”

Rahn came on board at a time when the department’s credibility with the public and elected officials was suffering.

“We needed someone who could turn the department around and get transportation in Missouri moving in the right direction again,” said former commission member Jim Anderson of Springfield, who headed the search committee that selected Rahn from applicants nationwide. “We knew Pete would be an outstanding leader, and he’s proven that.”

Shortly after Rahn took over, Missouri voters passed Constitutional Amend-



ment 3 that directed some additional highway user fees to road and bridge projects. He wasted no time developing a three-pronged approach to spending the money: make 2,200 miles of the state’s busiest highways smoother and safer, accelerate key projects already in the state construction program and tackle additional large-scale projects. As a result, 83 percent of the state’s major highways are now in good condition compared to 47 percent in 2004.

The road improvements, along with enforcement and education, have helped reduce deaths on Missouri roads. Missouri had the largest drop of any state

in traffic-related fatalities in 2006 and recorded fewer than 1,000 fatalities in 2007, the first time in more than 15 years. Traffic fatalities decreased another three percent in 2008 and, at press time, are down 13 percent this year.

Despite this success, Rahn’s biggest frustration remains with convincing the Missouri legislature to pass a primary safety belt law that would save an estimated 90 more lives a year. He carries a list with him of people who died in traffic crashes over the past four years because they weren’t wearing their seat belt.

“If Missouri legislators had passed a primary safety belt law when I first asked them four years ago, 360 people would still be alive,” Rahn said.

One of Rahn’s proudest accomplishments in his five years as director has been the smooth closing of Interstate 64 in St. Louis in both 2008 and 2009. While area residents feared the worst and local media predicted dire results, the closing of the first five miles went off without a hitch. The situation repeated itself in January 2009 when a second five-mile portion of the highway was closed with similar results.

Rahn has implemented radical cost control measures that have enabled MoDOT to deliver projects on time and within budget. A good example is Practical Design, which ensures projects are designed to fix specific needs without the frills. MoDOT has saved and reinvested more than \$500 million in the last three years using this cost-cutting measure.

Most recently, Rahn’s direction led Missouri to become the first state in the nation to begin construction on a recovery act project, a move that gained state, national and international attention and showed transportation projects could quickly stimulate the economy and put people to work.

His tenure hasn’t been without challenges. Funding for transportation was an issue when he became director and remains a concern today.

“We have many needs that we can’t meet because we don’t have adequate funding,” Rahn said. “It’s a problem nationwide and one we must address if we want to provide a quality transportation system both now and in the future.”

2

Electronic Pay Stubs

MoDOT employees will soon access pay stubs with the click of a mouse.

The Controller’s and Information Systems divisions are developing an electronic pay stub application available through any Internet provider.

The electronic version will replace the paper stubs now mailed to home addresses. Employees will have a unique username and password to access pay information and will be allowed access to work computers to privately view and print pay stubs if desired.

The electronic version is expanded to include MoDOT’s contributions for employee benefits, as well as any taxable benefits received. Another important

advantage is the option to view previous paycheck details.

Once employees have the ability to login, a minimum three-month transition period begins. During this time, both the electronic and paper copy will be provided. Employees will receive paper copies of pay stubs through the Dec. 31 pay date.

Moving to electronic versions will save \$80,000 in mailing costs alone each year, and is part of MoDOT’s green initiative.

Keep in mind that W2 forms will still be mailed as a hard copy, so it is still very important to keep mailing addresses updated with the Human Resources division.

Car Seat Checks To Be Held Sept. 12

by Sandra Hentges

Child safety seat technicians will provide on-site car seat checks and education on Sept. 12 at locations across Missouri.

Car crashes are the number one killer of children. During the last three years in Missouri, 56 children were killed and 437 more suffered disabling injuries.

“We are urging everyone to get their child safety seats inspected,” said Leanna Depue, director of Highway Safety. “When it comes to the safety of a child, there is no room for mistakes.”

Sept. 12 is National Seat Check Saturday and launches a weeklong child

safety seat campaign that includes education on proper safety seat installation and use as well as increased law enforcement cracking down on Missouri’s child safety seat law violators.

Missouri law requires all children under eight to be in an appropriate child safety seat or booster seat, unless:

- They are at least 80 pounds.
- They are at least 4’9” tall.

A list of car seat inspection stations and locations for the Sept. 12 car seat checkups can be found at www.saveMOLives.com.

America's Transportation Award

Interstate 44 Conway Welcome Center Receives National Recognition

by Kristi Jamison

Our ability to keep costs down is not only producing significant savings, but also gaining MoDOT national recognition. The department recently received a regional level America's Transportation Award from the American Association of State Highways and Transportation Officials for the Interstate 44 Conway Welcome Center project.

The state-of-the-art facility, completed ahead of schedule and under budget, won in the On Budget, Small Project category. Originally, it was estimated the project would take \$13.7 million in federal transportation enhancement



funds, but final costs were only \$10.8 million. The \$3 million saving resulted from an innovative "One Team" approach that used in-house staff to design the site and the facility rather than selecting a much higher-priced, external firm.

Our newest welcome center was also touted for how it combines mod-

ern amenities with environmentally friendly technology.

The award was presented at the annual Mississippi Valley Conference in Grand Rapids, Mich., in July but the winning may not stop there. The top scoring projects from each AASHTO region will advance to a final round to compete for the Grand Prize and People's Choice Awards.



Director Pete Rahn presents the regional award to System Management Director Don Hillis.

While a panel of judges selects the grand prize winner, the popular vote determines the People's Choice Award winner! If the I-44 Conway Welcome Center project ends up in the final running, more details on how to vote for our project will be provided.

The awards competition is part of AASHTO's marketing campaign aimed at building support for transportation projects across the nation.

Proud to Serve Fellow Employees

by Kristi Jamison

Out of sheer curiosity, Central Office Senior Sign Shop Worker Ron Strickland wanted to check out what the Employee Advisory Council was all about. Once he found out what they did and who made up the council, it piqued his interest even more. Now Strickland is one of the newest members on the council and is proud of his role in assisting in the decision-making process surrounding employee issues.

"When situations arise, I want to share my ideas and a different viewpoint," Strickland said. "I like the fact a 'Common Joe' like me can assist and make an impact on employee issues. Because varying levels of employees make up the council, I think it's important that the perspective I bring may be different

than someone from upper management."

David Fleming, a facility operations supervisor in District 10, is also thankful for the opportunity to help his fellow employees.

"I feel like the gift God gave me was to be a comforter and help people," Fleming said. "I'll do my best to help my co-workers and answer questions or concerns they have. Hopefully it will make MoDOT a better place down the road."

Strickland and Fleming are two of the 14 new members that joined the EAC in June. Others include:

District 1 Senior Maintenance Worker James Kirkendoll; District 1 Traffic

Specialist Matt Sonner; District 2 Regional Maintenance Supervisor Rodney Welch; District 3 Senior Maintenance Worker Mike Foppe; District 4 Intermediate Maintenance Worker Donald Colbey; District 5 Senior Traffic Technician Dianna Johnson; District 7 Maintenance Crew Leader Rick Barnes; District 8 Senior Maintenance Worker Shawn Nilges; District 8 Senior Maintenance Worker Jason Piper; District 10 Maintenance Crew Leader Jeff Leible; Central Office Senior Financial Services Specialist Amy Blankenship and Central Office Senior Employee Development Specialist Carol Lueckenhoff.

New officers for the 2009 - 2010 term were also selected in June. Stefan Denson, Central Office senior civil rights

specialist, is chair; Ken Cherry, District 6 regional maintenance supervisor, is vice chair; Maurita Miller, executive assistant to the District 2 Engineer, is secretary and Linda Darden, District 6 senior right of way specialist, is assistant secretary.

A special thank you also to the outgoing EAC members!

For a full list of EAC members or information on how the group is organized, visit wwwi/intranet/eac/.



Stefan Denson



Ken Cherry



Maurita Miller



Linda Darden

Work Zone Memorial Funding Progress

by Gaila Campbell

The Transportation Employees Association of Missouri met at a general assembly on Aug.14. An important meeting topic was the current funding status and latest activity to report regarding the Fallen Workers’ Memorial.

In April, T.E.A.M. accepted the challenge to bring the Fallen Workers’ Memorial to completion. Officers met with the Office of Administration to receive guidelines regarding available sites and the restrictions to follow for construction. They also worked with

the OA to include the memorial as one of the choices in the Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign. The design of the memorial will originate from MoDOT employees.

Ashley Halford, human resources specialist, presented a check to T.E.A.M. for \$9,543.03 to the memorial fund. Halford coordinated and collected the funds from the Ride for Remembrance Motorcycle Ride in June, working to acquire vendors, entertainment, and even booking Director of System Man-

agement Don Hillis as a target in the dunking booth!

Bake sales, float trips, cookouts, and bowling tournaments have contributed to raising funds for the memorial throughout district offices and T.E.A.M. chapters.

“MoDot employees, friends, and families have joined together to donate their time to organize fundraisers for this worthy cause,” said Archie Daily, senior maintenance worker in District 8 and T.E.A.M. president.

The present balance for the Fallen Workers’ Memorial is \$32,000. Additional funds will come from district and chapter activities.

Contributions for the Fallen Workers’ Memorial may be sent to Credit Union District 7, Attn: Dave Taylor, 3901 E. 32nd St., Suite A., Joplin, Missouri 64804.

Team Spirit Inspires Safe Driving for Teens

by Sandra Hentges

If Team Spirit sounds like a cheerleading convention, that’s because it is – only without the pompons. The three-day conference was a team-building workshop empowering Missouri high school students to take an active role in promoting safe driving habits in their school and community.

“The conference included team-building activities to teach kids to work together,” said Carrie Wolken, conference coordinator and youth coordinator for the Highway Safety Division. “The purpose was to train the students on programs that would make a positive impact on their peers.”

Students heard heartbreaking stories from victims whose lives were drastically changed as a result of traffic crashes. Pam Holt, an emergency room nurse, shared graphic stories about the trauma that occurs to the body when involved in a motor vehicle crash.

The ultimate goal of the conference was for Team Spirit students to create action plans for taking the programs back to their schools to increase safe driving.

Team Spirit is a statewide program sponsored by the Highway Safety Division and Cape Girardeau Police Department’s Safe Communities Program. It is available to all schools in Missouri. *For more information, call 1-800-800-BELT (2358).*

Stephen R. Miller Welcomed to Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission

Gov. Jay Nixon appointed Stephen R. Miller of Kansas City to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission.

“Mr. Miller’s impressive background and considerable knowledge of transportation issues make him a valuable addition to the commission,” said Director Pete Rahn. “I look forward



to working closely with him to ensure that Missouri’s transportation system continues to improve and to tackle the significant challenges we will face in the very near future.”

Miller is an attorney with the law firm of Miller Schirger and has more than 25 years experience in construction law. He will fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Mike Kehoe of Jefferson City and will complete his term, which runs through March 1, 2011.

Members are appointed to staggered six-year terms by the governor and must be confirmed by the senate. Miller will take his place on the commission immediately. He will be subject to confirmation by the senate when it reconvenes in January.

September Service Anniversaries

40 years
Roy R. Branson D6

35 Years
Martin A. Bell D9
Edward F. Books CO

30 Years
Cardell McDonald D3
Johnnie D. Johnston D4
Phillip W. Thieman D7
Kirk A. Kubicki D8
Matthew Lumpkin CO

25 Years
Deanna L. McClurg D1
Ernest D. Mahan D4
Darwin L. Doll D4
Robert W. Ruffini D4
Larry E. Wilbanks D5
Catherine L. Bullinger D8
Robert W. Stuart D8
Larry A. Woodruff D9
Leonard D. Miller D9
Bruce G. Murdick D9
Lola G. Eudaley D9
Curtis W. Baldrige D9

20 Years
David L. Lindbloom D2
Melvern Worley D3
Glenn D. Crossland D4
John W. Casey D7
Gary L. Riley D8
Machelle B. Watkins CO

15 Years
Norma L. Phillips D2
Randall Muck D2
Kathy D. Hutchinson D2
Eric G. Thompson D4
Dennis A. Bowers D4
Charles D. Coward D4
Joseph A. Martin D5
Joseph E. Murawski D6
Mark D. Hathcock D6
Carolyn A. Smith D6
John L. Allison D7
Regina L. Pearce D8
Richard J. Carson D8
Bernard D. Cook D9
Elquin L. Auala D9
Norman L. Malkowski D10
Donald R. Wallace D10
Kevin D. Williams D10
Cindy L. Favro CO
Carole A. Hopkins CO
Shelly K. Lewis CO
Ernest B. Perry CO

10 Years
Brandon Runyon D2
Deron S. Livingston D2
James R. Arbuckle D2
Stephen L. Helling D2
Pamela J. Pyle D4
Dennis N. Pine D4
Victoria A. Honse D5
Craig S. Benton D5
Shawn E. Edmonds D6
Michael E. Mallicoat D7
Keith J. Jenkins D8
Sim T. Smitherman D8

David W. Guerin D8
Bradley S. Adams D8
Earl D. Duke D8
Timmy R. Pogue D8
Bobby C. Loveland D8
Melissa A. Johnson D8
Bobby J. Newman D8
Joseph L. Dorris D9
Helen M. Morris D9
Arthur J. Green D9
Ronald G. Christian D10
Thomas H. Farris D10
Travis D. Tesreau CO
Leann K. Kottwitz CO
Aaron S. Kincaid CO
Amy E. Wilde CO

5 Years
David G. Fankhauser D1
Raymond O. Peel D2
Kevin A. Lee D3
Mark A. Martin D3
James A. Taylor D4
Dustin T. McElhaney D4
Jeffrey D. Mays D5
Cody G. Wickham D5
Kerry P. Nilges D5
Justin J. Kumberg D5
Cale B. Cooper D7
Benjamin A. Arnall D8
Betty J. Denning D9
Steven J. Belcher D9
Dustin L. Dunning D10
James C. Taylor D10
Ken C. Farrow CO
Pete Rahn CO
Victoria E. Wendt CO

July Retirements

Name	Location	Years of Service
Betty Kelley	D10	12
Dennis Acklin	D1	34
Paul Angle	D1	30
Daniel Lewis	D2	31
Charles Kidwiler	D4	25
Vincent Avola	D6	24
Marjorie Dunn	D6	18
Teddy Dement	D9	30
Johnny Wheeler	D9	25

In Memoriam

Retirees		
Everett F. Tripp	D10	June 20
Carl F. Wilson	D8	June 29
Arthur “Art” B. Stenning	D1	July 1
Billy L. Montgomery	D4	July 2
Raymond W. Birdsong	D9	July 13
Steve L. Jarvis	D9	July 13
Russell W. Sublette	CO	July 13
Cecil A. Allee	D5	July 17
Joseph “Joe” C. Marsh	D10	July 24
John H. Bean	D 2	July 29
Robert “Bob” E. Blinne	D9	July 29



Jones and Jones Collaborate to Preserve State Maps

by Sally Oxenhandler

For Joe Jones, it began as a love for antiquing, and became a five-year quest to collect every Missouri state highway map published. Now Don Jones, Central Office Print Shop supervisor, has preserved that collection so it can be posted online and secured in MoDOT's archives.

Joe Jones, engineering policy administrator for Design, began his mission to collect every state map back in 2003 when his wife, Valerie, on Father's Day gave him a 1937 state map she'd found in an antique store. It took about four years for Joe to complete his 67-map collection. He had been saving a map each year since he started with MoDOT in 1992, and found many of the rest at auctions, garage sales and antique stores. But it was Valerie who obtained "the lion's share" of old maps from eBay.

"We've paid as much as \$45 for a single map, and as little as 50 cents for six maps," Joe said. Posters showing a collage of the maps' cover art decorate Joe's office.

Sue Olson, Historic Preservation, first asked Don to scan some maps she had saved to a hard drive. When she found out about Joe's collection, she asked

Don to scan all of the maps. It took Don about a month to preserve the maps on a DVD that is now housed in MoDOT's archives for safe keeping. Don scanned the documents as time permitted, with each map taking about 30 minutes to capture. The maps are now in the process of being posted on the Web site.

Don said it was neat to see the photos of past Missouri governors as he scanned the maps, as well as how city populations grew or declined.

"A lot of the maps had photos of places in Missouri that would be neat to visit, but that I never knew about," Don said.

While there were at least three maps issued prior to 1926, Joe's collection begins there. He says that that was the first year the map had two sides and a cover, the format that continues to this day. Commission records report 1918 as the date of the first map, which was printed in black and white with no photos.

Both Joe and Don noted some interesting facts about the state map collection.

For instance:

- There are two versions of the 1939 map. The maps have the same



Joe Jones (left) and Don Jones review a map in the collection.

- cover, but carry different information on the back.
- The 1942 and 1944 maps have the same cover.
- There was no map printed in 1943 because of World War II.
- A special map was printed in 2004 to commemorate the Lewis and Clark bicentennial.
- The 1966 map caused a bit of a public stir because the cover features two women in short shorts.

- From 1981 to the present day, the map has only been published every two years. However, the maps published between 1945 and 1950 were also biennial.

Now that Joe and Don have completed this legwork, they say it's just a matter of adding to the collection. The 2010-2012 map is the latest installment.

Stay Out of the No Zone

On July 22, Wal-Mart truck drivers demonstrated the importance of sharing the road safely with large trucks to high school students at Motor Carrier Services in Jefferson City. Students from the TRAC Conference and the Summer Transportation Institute, along with employees, had the opportunity to get into the driver's seat of the Wal-Mart truck and see for themselves what truck drivers can't see in the mirrors. They also had a great



Wal-Mart driver Darryl Griffin spoke to students at the Creek Trail facility about the importance of staying out of the No Zone.

time running a Quick Click seat belt challenge, where four students race through four positions in a car, clicking their seat belt in each seat.

for more info

Connections Editor
Phone
E-mail

105 W. Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Laura Holloway
573.751.5985
laura.holloway@modot.mo.gov

New Division Director Welcomed

Rudy Nickens is MoDOT's new Equal Opportunity and Diversity Director. He began his position in August and will focus on making sure MoDOT's equal opportunity and diversity efforts are a model for others to follow.

"I was incredibly impressed by Rudy when we interviewed him for this position," said Roberta Broeker, chief financial officer. "He understands

that diversity is about more than race and gender, and that an organization truly benefits from a workforce that is diverse in multiple ways. I believe that Rudy will help MoDOT become a leader in diversity."

Nickens brings a strong work history with him. A native of Washington D.C., he has lived in St. Louis since 1973. Nickens has been executive director of the St. Louis Black Repertory Company since 2005. Prior to that, he spent several years as the vice president of St. Louis 2004, a civic organization created to act as a catalyst for community development, under the leadership of former Sen. John Danforth. Nickens has led a number of successful initiatives, including a workforce diversity program, a zero tolerance for hate program, a diversity officer's network, and a CEO leadership summit to develop strategies to attract and retain minority professionals.



Cathy Morrison

D1

Northwest

Last Month in the Northwest District

by M. Elaine Justus

To paraphrase Garrison Keillor, it has NOT been a quiet month in the Northwest District.

Things started off with a bang on Aug. 5 when the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission convened in Cameron, Missouri. Not only was it the first time in several years that the commission has met here,



Flanked by his fellow commissioners, newly-appointed chairman Dave Gach assumed command of his first Commission meeting in Cameron on Aug. 5.

basis, providing progress updates. Jon Morrow and his Piper Cub have been a regular sight in the air above the bridge.



The contract to rehabilitate and redeck the Brownville Bridge was awarded at the Aug. 5 commission meeting.

but it was also the very first commission meeting to be chaired by our very own Northwest District Commissioner, Dave Gach. One thing (among many) approved at that meeting was the bid for the rehabilitation of the Brownville Bridge. Part of President Obama’s Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the revitalized bridge will be an improvement welcomed by the surrounding communities.

Bridge workers have even been seen taking a picture of Jon taking a picture of them.



Workers from Archer Western Contractors, LTD are working hard to complete the piers on the Missouri side of the project.

HNTB will install a stop-motion camera on the Kansas side soon. The plan is to combine the footage with these stills to create a one-of-a-kind documentary on the project.

“One-of-a-kind” is a phrase that could also be applied to the glass tile mural planned for the Eagleville Welcome Center. Artists are putting the final touches on the mural in Washington



Created of tiny pieces of glass, the image of former President Harry S. Truman will be just one part of the completed mural image.

State and plan to ship the entire work to Eagleville for installation in mid-September. In the meantime, there’s another project taking place at the Welcome Centers. Senior Facility



Operations Crew Worker Bob Stone is responsible for the plantings at the Welcome Center and was getting frustrated about motorists’ dogs relieving themselves on his flowers. He contacted Missouri American Water Company, our local water provider, to ask if they had any obsolete fire hydrants we could have. They provided several, which Stone sandblasted and painted and has now installed as permanent “Terrier Toilets.”



Senior Facility Operations Crew Worker Bob Stone carefully mounted the restored hydrants at each of the Welcome Centers. MoDOT has formally expressed gratitude to the Missouri American Water Company for their generosity in providing this unique answer to a very difficult question.

Home From the War

by Holly L. Murphy



“Man Jammies” are what Transportation Project Designer Russ O’Daniell calls his souvenir of Afghanistan.

Transportation Project Designer Russ O’Daniell stopped by the district office in August to say hello to his co-workers after returning home from a six-month tour of duty in Afghanistan. He wanted to show off the new duds he picked up while he was gone. O’Daniell said this is the typical everyday dress of the Afghanistan men. According to O’Daniell, the clothes are extremely comfortable, and he calls them his “man jammies.”

O’Daniell serves with the Missouri Air Guard. He was deployed to Salerno, Afghanistan in December 2008. He worked with the Facilities Engineering Team, which was responsible for managing the construction and maintenance projects on the base.

O’Daniell will not be back to work at MoDOT for a while, as he is spending time catching up with his family. This isn’t his first active duty deployment, and every time he’s deployed, we’ve kept our “Blue Star Memorial” on the front page of our internal employee newsletters. Having him back, and removing it, will be a true joy. Thank you for your service to America, Russ!



6

for more info

Community Relations Manager	Elaine Justus
Phone	816.387.2353
E-mail	margaret.justus@modot.mo.gov
3602 N. Belt Highway	
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399	

D2

North Central

Alternate 63 Breaks Ground

by Tammy Wallace

A big crowd turned out for the Alternate Route 63 groundbreaking ceremony in Kirksville. The event kicked off

David Gach, Chairman of the Highways and Transportation Commission, was a guest speaker. Chairman Gach, who is



Cathy Morrison

construction for a six-mile section of the project to build two lanes to the east of Kirksville, beginning Aug. 17.

State and local officials noted the many benefits this improvement will provide to the community. They also commented on this being another major improvement to the entire corridor.

from the St. Joseph area, told the crowd, "This is what MoDOT likes to do, build roads that will provide benefits to communities such as Kirksville."

The project will be completed in 2011.

Summer is Over for Interns

District staff said goodbye to the summer engineering interns the same way they said hello, with a pizza luncheon.

on the jobs to make sure contractors understand MoDOT's specifications and that nothing gets missed.



Tammy Wallace

Left to right: Seth Norment, Jeremiah Kasinger, Brandon Goodwin, Aaron Lukefahr, Scott Hanlon, James Mross. Not pictured A.J. Neal and Caitilin Chester.

The district had a record number this year with eight students working in design, survey, construction and traffic.

Jeremiah Kasinger, who worked as a construction inspector, said he definitely understands the need for inspectors

Another intern, Seth Norment, said he overcame his fear of heights this summer working with Wes Carmack as an inspector on the Missouri River Bridge at Glasgow. Seth routinely walked across the beams of the bridge, using safety harnesses for protection.

for more info

Community Relations
Phone
E-mail

Route 63
P.O. Box 8
Macon, MO 63552

Tammy Wallace
660.385.8209
Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov

Quick Action

by Tammy Wallace

An unexpected finding caused Bridge Engineer Scott Stephens and other district employees to take quick action.

When the Jefferson City underwater inspection team found rusted bridge

To get started, a temporary berm was built to hold back water from the area, which was one of the most challenging aspects of the process, according to Stephens.



Scott Stephens

The Route 139 bridge near Sumner in Chariton County with two of the piers' new concrete encasements completed and the third ready to have the form removed.

Once the water was removed, the two rusted pilings were plated with new steel, then concrete was poured around all three of the bridge's pilings. Once the repairs were complete and the berm removed, traffic was allowed back on the bridge.

pilings during a routine underwater inspection of a bridge on Route 139, emergency action was taken.

First, the bridge was closed to traffic and four lighted message boards placed in strategic locations to route traffic around the area.

Initially the crew had no idea how long it would take to make the repairs, but after several groups became involved, what started out as an emergency situation had a great outcome.

In just eight days the regional bridge crew and Keytesville maintenance crew, with additional assistance from Carrollton maintenance and special crews, completed the repairs and reopened the route to traffic.

Thanks to the skill of the underwater inspection team and the district employees, the inconvenience to motorists was minimal and the bridge was quickly made safe for traffic.

Assistant District Engineer Kevin James said this program not only gives the students good exposure to our processes and a chance to put into practice what they have learned, but benefits MoDOT as well. Students learn new processes and techniques during the school year that they share with our employees.

Human Resources Manager Ellen Gehringer said this is a good exchange of knowledge, and told the students to keep in touch and offered continued assistance as they earn their degree and eventually seek employment in the engineering field.

Ready to Race!

7

The city of Chillicothe took one more step in its preparation to host the Tour of Missouri in September, when Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder visited the city to unveil the host city sign for the tour.

The Lt. Gov. and the city's Mayor unveiled the sign to a group of very enthusiastic Chillicothe residents.

Four of the signs were placed that day, two on Route 36 and two on Route 65.

Chillicothe is a start location for the sixth stage of the Tour of Missouri bicycle race on Sept. 12.



Heather Deshayes

Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder (left) unveils the host city sign with Chillicothe Mayor Chuck Haney.

D3

Northeast

Two for One Special

Whenever MoDOT can get a two-for-one special and embrace the value of striving to do our job better, faster and cheaper, we'll do it! This has been the case this summer when the Northeast District leased a chip spreader that spreads rocks on two lanes of road at one time and is adjustable up to 22 feet. To utilize the equipment as much as possible during the one-month lease, crews worked on Fridays treating 45 more miles of road. "We've been pleased with the process," said North Area Engineer Jennifer Hinson.

Maintenance Superintendent Rodney Osbourne's crew used the equipment on a low-volume road. "This is the ticket for this type of road!" said Osbourne. He added, "You don't have an overlapping of the center line seam with the chips, which makes for a better end product."

Chad Arment, Shelbina maintenance has operated both the MoDOT chip

spreader and the dual spreader that was leased and is sold on the latter. "This one is a lot better than ours, because of the results," he said. "This one has hydrostat to ease it forward, which means you can manage the speed of the machine and not worry about accelerating too fast," he explained. "You can just push a button to spread the chips more evenly, and you can push a button to widen the gates to spread up to 22 feet," he added.

Another advantage, both Arment and Osbourne agreed, was that the machine could do one pass or two passes with just a push of a button. "If traffic is coming, you can narrow up the machine," Arment said. "With our spreader, you have to stop, empty the hopper, then take the gates off."

"If it was up to me, I would buy one for us!" remarked Arment.



North area maintenance crews man the dual-lane chip spreader that was leased for the month of July. Forty-five miles of road were treated using the equipment.

With the installation of new closed circuit cameras near the rest areas at Mineola and Wright City, KC Scout representatives can now monitor traffic flow along I-70 in the Northeast District. Several maintenance crews, information systems staff and the contractor worked together to complete the project.



for more info

Community Relations Manager
Phone
E-mail

Route 61 South
P.O. Box 1067
Hannibal, MO 63401

Marisa Brown
573.248.2502
marisa.brown@modot.mo.gov

"Arrive Alive" Night for Cavemen Home Game

St. Louis might have the Cardinals, Kansas City the Royals, but Hannibal has the Cavemen, a new collegiate-level team of young men from all over the country who have brought America's favorite past time back to America's Hometown. When approached about sponsoring an "Arrive Alive" night, owner Larry Owens embraced the idea and offered the last home game of the season for the promotion.

"They were great to work with, and we were able to do a lot of one-on-one promotion at the game," said Northeast District Community Relations Specialist Tana Akright, who coordinated the event. The first 100 event attendees received Arrive Alive items, and mascots Shoeless Joe and Rascal shot signature shirts to the audience.



Hannibal Cavemen Mascot, Rascal, is Senior Information Technologist Ken Glover's son, Eric. He entertained District Engineer Paula Gough's son, Kayl, on his fourth birthday during Arrive Alive night for the Cavemen final home game of the season.

Around the District



For the first time, the Northeast District offered a webcast of the batwing demonstration on the Intranet. Working with multimedia and the web team, the video was online the day following the demonstration. "The advantage of putting this on the web is so everyone can watch it without having to physically be there," explained Maintenance and Traffic Engineer Mark Giessinger, who was the "host" of the video.



Construction Intern Steve Bostik took this photo of Jon Beck and Cortez Nelson, inspectors with the Troy Project Office, checking out the girders being set for the new interchange in Moscow Mills. The interchange will be completed by next fall.

D4

Kansas City Area

Kansas City Scout's Incident Management Program is On One Accord

by Gina Myles

The Kansas and Missouri Departments of Transportation have been working with first responders for more than two years as part of Kansas City Scout's Incident Management Program. However, on July 23, these partnerships were further solidified when more than 50 metro-area fire, law enforcement, towing and

recovery, media, motorist assist and other agencies signed an updated One Accord Agreement. The agreement is a resolution unifying these agencies with Scout in Traffic Incident Management for the metropolitan Kansas City area. By working together, utilizing the Scout system's network of cameras and message boards, in

conjunction with communication and collaboration, the Incident Management Program has been able to cut two hours off the amount of time vehicles involved in an accident sit on area freeways. This means spending less time stuck in traffic.

The Incident Management Program is working so well that Chief Corwin of the Kansas City Police Department honored Kansas City Scout's Motorist Assist and Emergency Response programs on July 24. Chief Corwin presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Motorist Assist and Emergency Response crews for saving KCPD thousands of man hours and keeping area motorists safe. In 2008, the Motorist Assist program responded to 12,141 calls for service that includes handling calls for stranded motorists and removing road obstructions. These items would normally necessitate a police response. KCPD also relies on Motorist Assist to offer traffic control at crash scenes, increasing the safety for emergency responders and motorists involved in the incident.



Chief Smokey Dyer with the Kansas City Fire Department signs the agreement to unify the agencies.



Sergeant Mahoney for the Kansas City Police Department honors Motorist Assist and Scout for providing an invaluable service to the area.

Leading these efforts is Kansas City Region Incident Coordinator William "Rusty" James. Sergeant Mahoney of KCPD said, "Rusty James has set the current tone of cooperation and helpfulness for which these MODOT crews have become known." You've probably seen Motorist Assist patrolling Kansas City interstates and freeways assisting stranded motorists or perhaps they aided you in your time of need. This program provides an invaluable service to KCPD and to motorists traveling on KC area freeways.

kcICON Project Team Celebrates First Interchange Ramp Opening

Interstate 29/35 Off-ramp to Armour Road Opens 33 Days Ahead of Schedule

by Jennifer Benefield

The kcICON Project design-build team held a grand opening celebration July 28 at the base of the new Armour Road off-ramp from southbound Interstate 29/35, marking project progress in North Kansas City. Speakers included North Kansas City Mayor Bill Biggerstaff, Paseo Corridor Constructors Project Manager Bryan Wilkerson, Harrah's Casino General Manager Tom Cook, Chairman of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission David Gach, and MoDOT's kcICON Project Director Brian Kidwell. Joe James,

President of the North Kansas City Business Council emceed the event. The project is 51 percent constructed and is on schedule to be completed by July 2011. "As we have been here for the day-to-day construction, with all the closures and openings, we are pleased to be at a mid-point in construction where we get a chance to see the progress," said Assistant North Kansas City Administrator and kcICON Community Advisory Group member Mike Smith. "There is light at the end of the tunnel."



Pictured from left to right: Brian Kidwell, Bryan Wilkerson, David Gach, Joe James, and Tom Cook.



Looking up the new off-ramp from southbound Interstate 29/35 to Armour Rd. With the traditional cloverleaf design removed, the new configuration features a longer ramp that can accommodate more vehicles and operates more efficiently.

for more info

Community Relations Manager
Phone
E-mail

Kristy Hill
816.622.6327
kristy.hill@modot.mo.gov

600 NE Colbern Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

D5

Central

Team Effort Showcases Interstate 70 Repair Crew

by Holly Dentner

Early one morning in July, Area Engineer Erik Maninga received a call from a Central District construction inspector about a concrete “blow-up” on Interstate 70 in Cooper County. Maninga manages the I-70 pavement repair crew, who had prepared to spend that day working in Lafayette County.

Blow-ups can occur during hot weather, when the concrete expands at a crack or a joint where moisture has seeped in, weakening the pavement. Unfortunately, the blow-up that morning stretched across both westbound lanes, and immediate action was needed.

“The blow-up happened in an area where a contractor was laying new asphalt, and it’s normally the responsibility of the contractor to make the repairs,” said Maninga. “Unfortunately, the contractor crews were too far away

that day to take care of it, and we knew we needed to act fast to prevent any impact to traffic.”

After a quick conference between the contractor and MoDOT construction and maintenance employees, the I-70 crew headed to Cooper County.

“Because the I-70 crew can pick up and go where needed, we started the repair that morning,” said Maninga. “We made the concrete repairs and the contractor assisted with setting up the traffic control for the work zone.”

The crew repaired one westbound lane one day and fixed the other lane the following day. The work went smoothly and without any major impact to traffic.

“This is a standout example of how successfully the entire team can work together,” said Maninga. “It was a

group effort that highlights the good working relationship MoDOT has between our divisions and with our contractor.”

The I-70 pavement repair team was formed last spring to make sure MoDOT had a flexible and versatile crew available to maintain and repair 180 miles of

I-70 pavement, from Oak Grove to Foristell.



Erik Maninga

A typical day for the I-70 pavement repair crew can include concrete repairs anywhere along a 180-mile stretch of I-70.

Bridge Improvements Complete on Route 5 in Cooper County

MoDOT reopened the Route 5 Bridge over Interstate 70 in Cooper County on July 23, after celebrating its completion during a ribbon-cutting ceremony held on the bridge that morning.

The Route 5 Bridge, located at mile marker 101, closed June 2 as part of the Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program. The structure of the bridge was in good shape, but the bridge deck was in very poor condition and required ongoing patching and maintenance to keep it safe for motorists.

The original structure was built in 1958 as part of the original interstate construction. The Safe & Sound work

allowed MoDOT to replace the deteriorating bridge deck, upgrade the bridge approaches, and add new guardrail and barriers along each side of the bridge.

Nearly 5,700 vehicles use the bridge every day. It is an important roadway not only for local traffic in Boonville, but for many businesses in the area that rely on interstate traffic. Closing the bridge allowed MoDOT to complete the project faster and at a lower cost.

There are 90 bridges in the Central District included in the Safe & Sound program. Ten bridges, including Route 5, have already been completed in the district.



Holly Dentner

State Rep. Kenny Jones cuts the ribbon as traffic zooms along the interstate below. Vehicles began using the new bridge immediately after the ceremony.

Around the District



Eric Schroeter

Regional Maintenance Supervisor Vince Boillot keeps an eye on the placement of sheet piling at the Blue Spring Bridge footings on Route 54 in Miller County. The district bridge crew is installing the sheet piling to prevent the erosion of rock and soil around the bridge footings.



MoDOT Chief Engineer Kevin Keith, Columbia City Councilperson Laura Nauser, and U.S. Sen. Christopher ‘Kit’ Bond celebrate the start of the new COLT railroad bridge over U.S. Route 63 in Columbia on July 31. The bridge will improve safety by eliminating the at grade railroad crossing on Route 63.



Jennifer Ranabargar

Crews from the Chamois, Linn, Meta, Owensville and Vienna maintenance buildings spent four days in July applying a cinder seal to Route 100 between Routes 50 and 89 in Osage County.

10

for more info

Community Relations Manager Kristin Gerber
Phone 573.522.3375
E-mail kristin.gerber@modot.mo.gov

1511 Missouri Boulevard
P.O. Box 718
Jefferson City, MO 65102

D6

St. Louis Area

District 6 Receives American Red Cross Lifesaver Award

contributed by American Red Cross

The American Red Cross recently presented District 6 with the Lifesaver Award for commitment to safety in the community. The district was honored for holding CPR training, safety fairs, blood drives and safety belt advocacy.

As a Red Cross authorized provider, District 6 has trained 10 Red Cross certified instructors who are able to teach members of the organization lifesaving first aid/CPR/AED.

In the past three years, 10 Red Cross certified instructors have taught 295 people first aid/CPR/AED classes. District 6 has purchased three auto-

The American Red Cross Lifesaver Award program, sponsored by AAA, is designed to inspire others to get trained in first aid and CPR by recognizing local citizens for preparing themselves to respond in an emergency situation. Last year, the American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter trained more than 82,000 local residents in CPR and first aid, including more than 17,000 in the use of AEDs. Since its inception in 1984, the Red Cross Lifesaver program has honored nearly 400 St. Louis heroes.

The program supports the Red Cross mission to help communities prevent,



The American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter recently presented the Lifesaver Community Award, sponsored by AAA, to District 6 for providing Red Cross first aid/CPR/AED training to 295 employees.

mated external defibrillators and trains employees on a regular basis on how to use them. The district held five blood drives, collecting 240 units of blood in the last 3 years. Since each unit can save up to 3 lives, that's more than 700 lives potentially saved!

prepare for and respond to disasters and emergencies.

For more information about the Lifesaver Community Awards or other programs provided by the American Red Cross, visit www.redcrossstl.org.



One of the many blood drives District 6 held in the past three years with the American Red Cross, July 2007.

for more info

Community Relations Manager Marie Elliott
Phone 314.340.4524
Email yvonne.elliott@modot.mo.gov

1590 Woodlake Drive
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Maintenance Crews Work 'Round the Clock for Interstate 44 pavement repair

by Stephanie Howard and Jack Wang

When a lane of westbound Interstate 44 between Elm and Berry Road began rising, it posed a hazard to the public and became a challenge to the Sunset Hills maintenance facility, according to South County Maintenance Superintendent Vince Reel. The rising pavement formed a large bump in the driving lane.

"It was determined that it was unsafe for the driving public," said Reel. "It was time to close the lane. This problem was beyond a temporary repair."

Reel worked tirelessly overseeing the job site as well as enlisting crew members from the South St. Louis County Area Team. Knowing there was a shortage of equipment, Allmeroth acquired equipment that was volunteered from all the other maintenance areas within District 6. District Maintenance Superintendent Owen Hasson called District 3, who responded by sending their concrete crew headed by Regional Maintenance Supervisor Simon Begley. They arrived at the job site immediately, ready to work.



Members of the South County Area Maintenance Team were joined by crews from District 3 to make an emergency pavement repair on westbound Interstate 44 between Elm and Berry Road.

Reel believes the pavement expanded when water seeped under the roadway. To make the necessary repair, crews dug into a 9-foot-deep section of interstate. With the current closure on Interstate 64, the repair had to be performed quickly and with as little impact on traffic flow as possible.

An Incident Command Center was established on site with a trailer.

"A lesson was learned ... the use of the MEROC trailer was invaluable," said Becky Allmeroth, district maintenance engineer.

To limit the closure of the two right lanes on westbound I-44, additional crews and equipment were brought in. Sunset Hills Regional Maintenance Supervisor Kathy Gettemeier kept crews organized around the clock.

"The part that impressed me the most was that we got so much support from within the district and from District 3," said South County Area Engineer Kristy Yates. "In the last second's notice, we put out a call and they responded where they were needed. This is what made me so proud."

The lane closure began July 22 at 8 p.m. Work began early the next morning. Crews finished the repairs in less than 50 hours. Lanes re-opened with the job 99 percent complete the morning of July 25.

"It was very refreshing to see so many people on the job site working so hard together," said Allmeroth. "You truly could not see a separation of maintenance buildings or districts. It was one MoDOT team working together to get the job done."



"It was one MoDOT team working together to get the job done," said Becky Allmeroth, district maintenance engineer.

D7

Southwest

MoDOT Responds to Bomb Threat

by Lori Marble

On July 29, District 7 shut down North Range Line Road near the North Park Mall for three hours as the Joplin Police Department worked to end an attempted robbery and bomb threat at a bank in the mall parking lot.

The suspect was taken into custody without incident.

We spoke to Assistant District Maintenance Engineer Kristi Bachman, one of the district's incident responders, about the incident:

What was your first reaction? Did you think, "No way, this seems too much like a TV show plot?"

My initial reaction was shock, and that reaction stuck with me throughout the incident. But, you have to work through that and focus on the response. We continually work with local responding agencies to let them know MoDOT is available to assist during incidents, and we didn't want to let them down.

When did you think about your entire emergency training? How soon did your automatic pilot kick in and you were able to utilize everything you've learned?

We have put a lot of emphasis on training and being prepared to respond to incidents. It is really impressive to watch our district in action. It seems as if everyone's automatic pilot kicks in at once. As a result, it makes it easier to gauge how elaborate our response



The Joplin Police Department SWAT team inspects a vehicle on the US Bank parking lot.

needs to be without a lot of initial discussion on who needs to be involved. Those details have been worked out in our training.

For this specific incident, while I was on the phone setting our field response in motion, our Community Relations staff was taking care of making the necessary contacts to the media. Throughout the incident, they used a variety of social media tools to provide the traveling public with current traffic and incident information, and took care of many other details. Because of their involvement, I was able to be at the incident command site and focus on coordinating our response with the other agencies.

Not having any experience with bomb threats, I was very concerned about the safety of our personnel heading in that direction. I first made sure they all knew the details of the incident, and then I talked to our Safety Officer, Gary Clinton. Gary went to the site and

monitored our response activities. It was a load off my mind that he was there to focus on the safety of our crews.

No matter how good our initial response plan, it almost always requires some adjustment in the field.

Our field personnel have the experience and flexibility to respond to a variety of incident types. They often go above and beyond what is initially asked of them, and I am always impressed with their willingness to work under stressful conditions.

Where did you think was the biggest need for MoDOT in this situation?

The things MoDOT focuses on daily are often the same things we're asked to provide during an incident: safe transportation and effective information. In this situation, we were asked to provide traffic barriers and assist with traffic control. In addition to this, we provided information to the traveling public using changeable message signs, our Traveler Information Map, Twitter and Facebook.

How daunting was it to shut down traffic on one of the district's most

heavily traveled roads during the noon hour?

It was not an ideal location or time to shut down traffic, but the coordinated efforts of the Joplin Police Department, City of Joplin, Webb City Police Department, safety personnel from Missouri Southern State University and MoDOT provided for a successful closure. MoDOT focused on reducing congestion by alerting the media that the public should avoid that area of Joplin and setting up changeable message signs. Our message signs have been invaluable devices used in the majority of our incident responses, and I can't thank the District Traffic Signal Shop personnel enough for their willingness to help and their ability to place the signs quickly during this incident.

How important do you think it was that you had worked hard in the preceding months to develop a strong relationship with the police and fire departments?

These relationships are invaluable. We have made a collected effort to get to know each agency that typically responds to highway-related incidents. Our meetings have provided the opportunity to talk about our expectations and what we bring to the table during an incident and to learn the abilities and expectations of the other agencies. As a result, we are working together to provide safer and more efficient responses to incidents.

12

Utilities Knowledge Handed Down

by Lori Marble

District Utilities Engineer Jack Myers retired in August, but not before newly promoted Utilities Engineer Greg Chapman studied and grabbed hold of the 23 years' worth of knowledge in Jack Myers' head.

Starting as a summer intern in the Neosho project office, Chapman earned his civil engineering degree and was hired to work in construction five years ago.

Myers was quick to offer advice and show Chapman the ropes.

"We've been trying to cover upcoming meetings with utilities on current roadway moves and preconstruction meetings," said Myers. "We've also been reviewing current utility documents we need to process agreements, final invoices and final plans."

Chapman's immediate concerns are more focused.



Jack Myers, left, shows Greg Chapman the ropes.

When asked what he felt would be his biggest learning curve to overcome, Chapman responded, "It's different from what I was doing. I think just learning the processes will be my biggest challenge. Utilities are everywhere and impact everything we do.

"Jack has been great," Chapman continued. "I have a lot of questions and all I have to do is just ask him. I've learned a lot from him in just the few

days we've worked together and have already been applying his methods to some of the work I've done."

"Really, right now I'm focusing on e-mails and requests that are brought to my desk. Also, I'm researching as much as I can, learning what's going on with the jobs in progress while I still have Jack available."

for more info

Community Relations Manager
Phone
E-mail
3901 E. 32nd Street
Joplin, MO 64804

Lori Marble
417.629.3300
lori.marble@modot.mo.gov

D8

Springfield Area



D8 at Work

Senior Warehouse Supply Agent Brian Woods (above) distributes flags for "School Bus Stop Ahead" signs.

Drilling and grouting in dowels before concrete patches are poured (top right photo) are Concrete Crew seasonal maintenance workers, (from left), Kevin Hardy, Jason Heath and Jacob Morgan. The crew repaired more than 300 joints between Route 60 in Springfield and Business 65/Christian County Route F in Ozark.

Comparing notes at a National Alliance of Highway Beautification Agencies national conference held this year in Branson (bottom right photo) are Outdoor Advertising Technician Robin Coble, left, and Permit Specialist Jessica Sawyer.



Route 65 Six-Laning a Sign of Continued Growth

by Bob Edwards

Two years from now, drivers will be using the first six-lane state roadway in the Springfield region.

Two lanes are being added to four-lane Route 65 between Route 60 and I-44 as part of a \$27 million project just begun.

The need for the Route 65 six-laning is yet another sign that the Springfield area and other parts of southwest Missouri continue to grow and develop.

The project addresses two basic needs, District Engineer Kirk Juranas said.

"We have combined increased capacity and a higher level of safety," he said.

The 7-1/2-mile long section of Route 65 carries 70,000 to 80,000 cars a day, depending on location, reaching or exceeding capacity several hours each day. It is one of the state's busiest roadways outside of the St. Louis and Kansas City metro areas and has more traffic than I-44 across southwest Missouri.

With the heavy traffic, crashes have increased in recent years, including rear-enders and a number of cross-median

crashes that have resulted in fatalities.

"We're not doing it any too soon," Project Manager Linda Bokel said. "It's needed badly."

MoDOT is partnering with the City of Springfield and Greene County on the project. MoDOT will provide \$23.3 million, which includes Amendment 3, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and district funds. Springfield is using \$2 million in 1/8-cent transportation sales tax money. Greene County is using \$1.7 million in ARRA funds.

The prime contractor is Emery Sapp and Sons, Columbia.

The project, scheduled for completion in Fall 2011, involves:

- Adding a lane in each direction in the median, with 7-foot wide median shoulders and a concrete barrier separating the northbound and southbound sides.
- Replacing two bridges over the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad tracks south of Chestnut Expressway and re-decking the two bridges over the BNSF tracks north of Division Street.

- Repairing an uplift in the pavement on both sides of Route 65 between Kearney and Division streets.

Lane closings during construction must be done at night.

Branson Senior Construction Inspector Brian Todd will be the lead inspector on the job. He said the project should go smoothly, especially if drivers are

safe and pay attention to the road when driving through the work zones.

"It's going to be pretty straightforward," he said.

In a related project, the district will discuss sound walls with the owners of property adjacent to Route 65 where walls are warranted.

for more info

Community Relations Manager
Phone
E-mail

3025 E. Kearney
P.O. Box 868
Springfield, MO 65801

Bob Edwards
417.895.7713
robert.edwards@modot.mo.gov

Traffic Veteran Retires

by Angela Eden

Senior Traffic Specialist Jack Wilson

Service: 31 years (Hired Sept. 1, 1978)

Career: Maintenance worker to senior maintenance worker, Branson, 1978-1991; local maintenance supervisor, Lampe, 1991-2000; traffic specialist to senior traffic specialist, Traffic, 2000-2009

Memorable Accomplishment: Really enjoyed the maintenance and traffic work, but the best part was making close friends among co-workers

Favorite Project: Rehabilitating the Waldo Powell Roadside Park along old Highway 13 in Branson West

Quote: "I hope your journey is as much fun as mine has been. Be safe, take care of your friends, learn to laugh at your-

self ... and watch out for each other."

Post-MoDOT Plans: Taking motorcycle trips with wife, Loana; spending more time with grandkids; completing an "ongoing list" of chores at home



Wilson

Also retiring,
Lebanon Maintenance Crew Leader Bennie Foltz and Signing Crew Maintenance Supervisor Dave Whitlock

"Talkin' Transportation"
Call-In Radio Show

KWTO 560 AM, Springfield
10-10:50 a.m. Wednesdays
radiospringfield.com

D9

South Central

D9 Employees Treated to Lunch by an Appreciative Customer

by Christi Turkleson

Employees from the traffic department and maintenance crews from the Bellevue area were treated to lunch from a satisfied customer July 28. Lance Mayfield, former Mayor of Viburnum, brought his smoker to the Bellevue shed and personally cooked ribs, potatoes and corn on the cob for employees. Mayfield said he wanted to show his appreciation for their quick action and responsiveness to his concerns.

Mayfield had been concerned that Viburnum, Mo. was not included on the directional signage in Cherryville, Mo. He had also expressed concerns regarding gravel on Route 32 spilling onto the shoulders from passing traffic. According to Mayfield, both issues were handled quickly.

“I was driving home about two weeks later and saw that Viburnum had been added to the signage,” said Mayfield.

To address the gravel concerns on Route 32, crews added chevron signage and reshaped portions of the roadway.

Mayfield said he wanted to show employees that their actions were appreciated. “I can see that it would be easy for people just to complain about a pothole or repairs, but I see that MoDOT employees are really public servants. That’s really what they are.”

Regional Maintenance Supervisor Brian Long said the crews were thankful. “Everyone enjoyed the meal and appreciated the recognition from Mr. Mayfield,” said Long.



Shaun Smith, Nick Lambert and Tony Hutchings employees from the Potosi Region, prepare their plate.

D9 Staff Volunteer to Help Spread Road Safety Message

by Christi Turkleson

Fifteen MoDOT employees participated in coalition volunteer training on July 15. South Central Regional Coalition Coordinator Kelly Martin said the training helps volunteers become more comfortable running the equipment and emphasized that it’s important to fit the right volunteer with the right program.

“With so many outreach opportunities available, it is critical that we have such qualified volunteers,” said Martin. “Some are content to be there for an extra hand or just to help haul equipment, while others are stepping forward to manage new educational programs to be presented to elementary students this fall.”

Participants learned how to set up and use the Rollover, Convincer, and SAFE-T (Stopping Alcohol-related Fatalities: Education for Teens) equipment. Volunteers were able to practice equipment setup and ride the Convincer and SAFE-T equipment themselves. Volunteers also learned how they could help with Coalition educational programs, presentations and outreach efforts.

Right of Way Certified Appraiser Lisa Durnell attended the training, noting that “after the training, I feel better



SAFE-T instructor Troy Gilley replaces the cone that was hit by Electrician Assistant Kevin Clark and his passenger, Maintenance Worker Leroy Devonshire, during the training.



Maintenance Worker Krista Murphy experiences the effect of a 5 mph traffic trash while belted into the safety belt convincer.

equipped to teach members of the public the role they play in keeping our highways safe.”

“I especially like that we have programs for people of all ages - from Buddy the Buckle Up Dragon for the youngsters, all the way to Older Adult Driver’s Training for the senior citizens,” said Durnell. “This is a well-rounded program that should have a positive impact on the citizens of our district and state.”

Crews Enjoy No MOre Trash Bash Lunch

Workers from the northern weekend and incarcerated crews enjoyed lunch catered by Sweetwater Barbeque on

July 20 at the Rolla Community Hall. The lunch was provided by Statewide Roadside Supervisor, Stacy Armstrong

in recognition of the crews achievement in picking up the most trash in D9 during April’s No More Trash Bash. The

workers collected a total of 568 bags in the South Central District.



Northern Weekend Crew



Potosi Incarcerated Crew



Houston Incarcerated Crew

for more info

Community Relations Manager
Phone
E-mail

910 Old Springfield Road
P.O. Box 220
Willow Springs, MO 65793

Christi Turkleson
417.469.6203
christina.turkleson@modot.mo.gov

D10

Southeast

‘Toastmasters’ Meet in D10

The “Smooth Talking Toastmasters of Sikeston” prove that improving your communication and leadership skills can be fun.

The club held a Fourth of July celebration during their June 23 meeting. The meeting was complete with seasonal decorations and a picnic lunch of hot dogs, potato salad, watermelon and pecan pie. The theme was carried-through, as club members talked about their favorite Fourth of July memories, expressed their opinions on patriotism in today’s society, and addressed the controversy over reciting the pledge of allegiance in schools.

Also in July, Toastmaster Jason Belne of London, England, visited the

Sikeston Club and spoke on his interest of theater and talked about the differences between his club in London and the Sikeston club. Jason was the club’s first international visitor.

The Sikeston Toastmasters meet every other Tuesday at noon at the MoDOT District Office in Sikeston. For more information on “Sikeston’s Smooth Talking Toastmasters,” contact Senior Human Resource Specialist Lisa Kenley, at 573-472-5363.



District 10 Toastmasters Club: “The Smooth Talking Toastmasters of Sikeston”

Ribbon Cutting Held in Stoddard County



Project Designer Dave Blalock; District Planning Manager Bill Robison; State Rep. Billy Pat Wright, District 159; State Rep. Steve Hodges, District 161; State Sen. Rob Mayer; Josh Haynes on behalf of U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson; Tom Schulte on behalf of U.S. Sen. Kit Bond; Julian Steiner, Director of the Industrial Development Authority of Stoddard County; and Project Manager Eric Krapf join Nestle Purina Logistic Manager Dan Heil, as he cuts the ceremonial ribbon during the Route Y ribbon-cutting ceremony.

To celebrate the nearing completion of the Route Y project in Stoddard County, MoDOT held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 12. The ceremony was held at the Nestle Purina PetCare Company on Route Y. The public and media were invited to attend.

Guest speakers included: Tom Schulte on behalf of U.S. Sen. Kit Bond; Josh Haynes on behalf of U.S. Rep. Jo Ann

Emerson; State Sen. Rob Mayer; State Rep. Billy Pat Wright, District 159; State Rep. Steve Hodges, District 161; Nestle Purina Logistic Manager Dan Heil; and MoDOT Southeast District Project Manager Eric Krapf.

The project included grading, paving and drainage work from Route 25 to the Union Pacific railroad crossing.

Groundbreaking Held: Hayti and Marston Welcome Centers

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Aug. 7 to kick off construction of the new Hayti and Marston Welcome Centers. One groundbreaking ceremony was held to celebrate the construction of both welcome centers. The ceremony was held near the Hayti Welcome Center construction site on northbound Interstate 55.

Guest speakers included: Tom Schulte on behalf of U.S. Sen. Kit Bond; State Rep. Terry Swinger, District 162; State Rep. Steve Hodges, District 161; Duane Michie, Missouri Highway Commissioner; Bob Smith, Missouri Division of Tourism Interim Director; Steve Duke, Bootheel Regional Planning Commission Executive Director; Clyde Hawes, New Madrid County Presiding Commissioner; Jim Atchison, Pemiscot County Presiding Commissioner; MoDOT Southeast District Engineer Mark Shelton.

One of the two new welcome centers will be located on northbound I-55, just north of Hayti; the other welcome center will replace the southbound rest area near Marston. The existing outdated

welcome center on the northbound lanes near Marston will be eliminated and converted to a truck parking area.

Constructing these two facilities will include grading, paving, drainage work, lighting, landscaping and signing. Both new welcome centers will feature restroom facilities, picnic areas, a playground, benches and walking trails as well as site-specific details, highlighting the rich history of Southeast Missouri.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission awarded the contract on July 8 for improvements to the welcome centers in New Madrid and Pemiscot Counties. The \$11,629,285 contract was awarded to R.L. Persons Construction Inc., Poplar Bluff, Mo. Federally provided enhancement funds, monies made available for non-roadway type projects that still contribute to overall improvement of our transportation system, are being used for this project. Work on the welcome centers began Aug. 10. Construction of both welcome centers is expected to be complete by November 2010.



Ceremony speakers and other special guests break ground during the Hayti and Marston Welcome Centers’ groundbreaking ceremony. Left to right: MoDOT Southeast District Engineer Mark Shelton; Christy Ferrell on behalf of U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill; Duane Michie, Missouri Highway Commissioner; Clyde Hawes, New Madrid County Presiding Commissioner; Bobby Watkins, Hayti Mayor; Steve Duke, Bootheel Regional Planning Commission Executive Director; Tom Schulte on behalf of U.S. Sen. Kit Bond; State Rep. Steve Hodges, District 161; State Rep. Terry Swinger, District 162; Bob Smith, Missouri Division of Tourism Interim Director; Jim Atchison, Pemiscot County Presiding Commissioner.

for more info

Community Relations Manager	Nicole Thieret
Phone	573.472.6632
E-mail	nicole.thieret@modot.mo.gov
2675 N. Main Street	
P.O. Box 160	
Sikeston, MO 63801	

Recent Retiree



Betty Kelley retired July 1 after 12 years with MoDOT. Kelley was a General Services Technician.

Battle of the Belt

The 2009-2010 Battle of the Belt competition is open to all Missouri high schools. To participate, registration is due no later than Oct. 2, 2009 - but schools are encouraged to sign up now.

For more information on this program, please contact Belinda McMurry, senior community relations specialist, at 573-472-5333 or belinda.mcmurry@modot.mo.gov

Connections

The mission of *Connections* is to be a monthly source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide. It is distributed to MoDOT employees and retirees.

Community Relations
Missouri Department of Transportation
P. O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840
www.modot.org
1-888 ASK MODOT

Editor
Laura Holloway

Design Coordinator
Dennis Forbis

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Laura Holloway, editor
573.751.5985
Laura.Holloway@modot.mo.gov

Additional copies are available upon request. Suggestions, questions and comments are always welcome.



Please share this publication and recycle it after reading.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.



Missouri Department of Transportation
Community Relations
105 W. Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65102

PreSort Standard
Permit #353
Columbia, MO 65201

Return Service Requested

Next Generation Desktop to Include Windows 7

by Matt Hiebert

To stay ahead of rapidly changing technology, the Next Generation Desktop steering committee decided to forego installing the Vista operating system and go straight for Windows 7.

The decision will delay the implementation of Microsoft Office 2007 for a month or two, but the long-term benefits will be worth the wait.

“I believe, and the NGD Steering Committee has agreed, that this is the right thing to do at this time, giving us the opportunity for Windows 7 and a bit more time to make sure things are right when we roll out,” said Director of Information Systems Mike Miller.

Reviews of Windows 7 say it is faster, requires less memory to run and features a better user interface than Vista. The move will also put MoDOT right



on track with current technology, meaning it may be years before the department has to upgrade again.

Originally, Microsoft announced that Windows 7 would not be released until the first quarter of 2010, which would have been too late for MoDOT’s upgrade. Customer demand made the software giant move the release date up, allowing MoDOT to make the move to the improved operating system.

We Have to Decrease to Increase

by Kristi Jamison

Idle reducing devices. Carpooling. Videoconferencing. Energy-efficient renovations.

These are just a few strategies MoDOT is using to reduce its energy and fuel consumption to become a leaner, greener, more energy-efficient agency.

“Last summer, MoDOT launched the ‘Stretch Your Power’ campaign,” said General Services Director Beth Ring. “While the Energy Efficiencies Team had already researched several energy-savings ideas, we also wanted to engage employees in helping identify and implement ways we could reduce energy use in our fleet and facilities.”

Since then, MoDOT employees have successfully incorporated several tactics to reduce fuel use. Idle devices, such as automatic shutdown/startup devices or auxiliary power units have now been set up to operate in equipment in most districts. Plus, light duty trucks have been placed in all districts, making it easier to use the right-sized, more efficient equipment for the job.

Also, operational procedures are under review by upper management to see how we can become more efficient in some of our most major functions, like mowing. In the procurement process, we are making a concerted effort to purchase more fuel-efficient vehicles.

Additionally, employees have done a remarkable job in cutting back on non-critical travel by carpooling or using videoconferencing instead.

Facilities staff is hard at work making changes to improve energy efficiencies in MoDOT facilities, too. Preservation-type renovations are being made to improve older buildings by installing insulation, replacing older windows and roofs, switching to more energy-efficient lighting and installing energy-saving devices like motion sensors and programmable thermostats.

Furthermore, the latest energy-saving technologies are being used in all new buildings from ground source heat pumps to energy-efficient lighting and heating and cooling systems.

Efforts by employees to shut off lights not in use, turn computers off at the end of the workday, close overhead doors and follow guidelines for suggested temperatures are also helping to reduce the bottom line on utility costs.

“I encourage everyone to keep up the good work and look for more ways to Stretch Your Power,” Ring said. “Together, we are making a difference!”

Good News!

MoDOT will offer free flu shots for active employees. Look for locations and details in your district or division.

